Statement

(a) and (b) During the period April-October, 2001, Andhra Pradesh had an energy shortage and peak deficit of 9.3% and 17.6% respectively. The State experienced the third highest peaking shortage during the period April-October, 2001.

At the request of the State Government, allocation from the unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations was increased from 40% to 54% and allocation of 33 MW from Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Unit No. 4 was made in favour of Andhra Pradesh upto 30th September, 2001. Andhra Pradesh also receives 200—210 MW of power from NTPC stations in the Eastern Region over the Gazuwaka HVDC link and another 150—160 MW from Orissa over Upper Sileru-Balimela 220 KV link under bilateral agreement. However, in October, 2001 power supply position in Andhra Pradesh improved due to good rainfall which led to higher hydel generation and fall in demand. In veiw of this, the State has not drawn its entitled power in full from Orissa as well as Central Sector Stations during October and November, 2001.

Providing a Single window clearance for Hydro-electric Projects

*223. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to provide a single window clearance for hydro-electric projects;

(b) whether this will help in expeditious execution of projects; and

(c) the number of projects which have been cleared and are likely to be cleared under this system?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) It has not been found possible to have a single window clearance for hydro-electric projects in view of the involvement of several statutory and State agencies in clearance of such projects. Hydro projects impacting more than one State require consultation with the concerned States. However, the Government have streamlined the procedure of according clearances within the agencies of Government of India and have also set up a Crisis Resolution

Group for resolution of last mile problems. A three-stage clearance for hydro-electric projects under Central Sector has also been introduced.

श्री राजनाथ सिंह "सूर्य": माननीय सभापति जी, मंत्री जी ने जो अभी उत्तर दिया है, इसके पहले इस संदर्भ में लोक सभा में और इस सदन में जो प्रश्न उठे थे उनमें भी लगभग इसी प्रकार के उत्तर दिये जा चुके हैं। इन सारे उत्तरों को देखने के बाद ऐसा लगता है कि जो जल विद्युत परियोजनाएं हैं उनके प्रति हमारा आग्रह बढ़ने की बजाए, कम होता चला जा रहा है। जहां तक हम सबका अध्ययन है उसके अनुसार हमारी जल विद्युत परियोजनाएं सस्ती पड़ती हैं, उनके रख-रखाव में भी सुविधा होती है। इसके बावजूद भी जहां जल विद्युत की हमारी विद्युत परियोजनाओं में भागीदारी 1967-68 में 46 प्रतिशत थी वह अब घटकर 24 प्रतिशत रह गयी है। हमने जितनी भी विद्युत परियोजनाएं अभी तक कार्यान्वित की हैं उनमें लगता है कि थर्मल पावर को हमने ज्यादा महत्व दिया है बजाए जल विद्युत परियोजनाओं के। मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर के एक भाग में जो कठिनाइयां गिनायी हैं उनमें इस बार एक नयी कठिनाई और जोड़ दी है - उग्रवाद प्रभावित क्षेत्र। जहां तक मैं जानता हूं जहां जल विद्युत परियोजनाएं कार्यान्वित होनी हैं, जहां का सर्वे हो चुका है उनमें अधिकांशत: उत्तर प्रदेश, उत्तरांचल और हिमाचल, इस प्रकार के क्षेत्र हैं-जहां, उग्रवाद का कोई प्रभाव नहीं है। इसके बावजूद भी जवाब में यह कहा गया है। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जल विद्युत परियोजनाओं को प्राथमिकता देकर उनमें कार्यान्वयन शुरू करने में जो ये कठिनाइयां गिनायी गयी हैं - जो भूमि का सर्वेक्षण है, परियोजनाओं में विस्थापित होने वाले लोगों का मुआवजा है - यह जैसे हाइडिल में होता है वैसे ही थर्मल में भी होता है। दोनों जगहों की ये ही व्यवस्थाएं हैं। फिर भी इस तरफ जो हमारी क्षमता है जिसका हमने सर्वेक्षण किया है उसका मात्र 16 प्रतिशत ही उपयोग करने का क्या कारण है? उसको बढ़ावा क्यों नहीं दिया जा रहा है?

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: सर, यह वास्तविकता है कि शुरू से लेकर आज तक हमारे देश में जल से विद्युत निर्माण करने से ज्यादा ध्यान हमने थर्मल पावर जनरेशन के ऊपर दिया है। उसके कारण आज 71 प्रतिशत हमारी जो बिजली निर्मित करने की क्षमता है वह थर्मल पावर से आती है और 24 या 25 प्रतिशत हमारी जो क्षमता है वह जल विद्युत के निर्माण से है। यह भी सही है कि आज हमारे देश में 1 लाख 50 हजार मेगावाट के करीबन हमारी जल विद्युत निर्माण की क्षमता है। दुर्भाग्य से आज तक हम 17 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा उस क्षमता को सही मायने में एक्सप्लायट नहीं कर पाए हैं। लेकिन यह कहना बिल्कुल सही नहीं कि हमारी सरकार का ध्यान इस तरफ नहीं है। इसलिए मुझे कहने में खुशी हो रही है कि हमारी सरकार ने एक विस्तृत कार्यक्रम बनाया है ताकि पूरी की पूरी हमारी जो हाइड्रो पोटेंशियल एक्सप्लायट करने की क्षमता है वह आगे आने वाले सालों में हम सही मायने में इस्तेमाल कर सके और इसमें पहला जो कदम उठाने की जरूरत थी वह कदम कुछ 6-7 महीने पहले हमने उठाये हैं जिसमें हमने जितनी हाइड्रो पोटेंशियल है उसकी रैंकिंग स्टडी बनायी है। आप सबको पता होगा यदि हाइड्रो पावर पोटेंशियल डेवलप करना है तो उसके लिए

जहां वह पोटेंशियल एक्सप्लायट करना है उसका सर्वे, इन्वेस्टीगेशन करने की जरूरत होती है। वहां जियोलोजीकल कंडीशंस क्या हैं, टोपोग्राफी कैसी है, उसको ध्यान में रखते हुए ही हाइड्रो पोटेंशियल एक्सप्लायट किया जा सकता है। साथ ही हमें यह पता है कि जहां ज्यादा से ज्यादा पानी बरसता है वहीं पर हाईड्रो पोटेंशियल एक्सप्लायट किया जा सकता है। पानी बरसने की स्थिति भी ऐसी जगह में है जहां हमारी फॉरेस्ट वैल्थ इस देश की है। इसलिए यदि हम सर्वे एंड इन्वेस्टीगेशन नहीं करेंगे तो हमको जियोलोजीकल सरप्राइज़ेज़ और टोपोग्राफीकल सरप्राइज़ेज़ का सामना करना होगा। इसलिए इस स्थिति को टालने के लिए प्रिलिमिनरी सर्वे एंड इन्वेस्टीगेशन से भी पहले हमने रैंकिंग स्ट्डी की और हमारी पूरी की पूरी जितनी हाईड्रो पोटेंशियल एक्सप्लायट करने की क्षमता है, उसकी रैंकिंग स्ट्डी हमने सैन्ट्रल इलैक्ट्रिसिटी अथारिटी से कराई और आज उसकी रिपोर्ट हमारे पास है। उसके आगे का जो कदम है वह हम करेंगे। बहुत जल्द कुछ ही दिनों में, शायद अगले दो महीनों अर्थात् जनवरी-फरवरी में हम हाईड्रो पोटेंशियल एक्सप्लायट करने का एक बहुत बड़ा अभियान चलायेंगे जिसमें हमारे देश के प्रधानमंत्री जी भी उसका उद्घाटन करेंगे और पूरा एक्सप्लायट करने का जो एक्शन प्लान है वह हम बनायेंगे। यह जो वॉटर रिसोर्सेज़ है, सर, आपको पता होगा कि हाईड्रो पोटेंशियल राज्यों की जिम्मेदारी है और संविधान की एंट्री 17, लिस्ट 2 जो है उसके तहत water is a resource over which the respective State Government has a right and ownership and, therefore, यदि हम उनको इसमें सम्मिलित नहीं कर सकते तो यह हाईड्रो पोटेंशियल एक्सप्लायट करने का कार्यक्रम सिर्फ केन्द्र सरकार बना सकती है, तकनीकी सहायता दे सकती है, धन भी उपलब्ध करा सकती है, लेकिन कार्यक्रम तो राज्यों को ही कार्यान्वित करना है। हमारा जो पूरा हाईड्रो पोटेंशियल है वह या तो नार्थ में है, हिमालयाज़ में है, उत्तरांचल में है, जम्मू एंड कश्मीर में है या हिमाचल प्रदेश जैसे राज्य में है या फिर नार्थ-ईस्ट राज्यों में है, जिसको कि सैवन सिस्टर्ज़ कहते थे लेकिन अब एट सिस्टर्ज कहते हैं। इसलिए हमने हर राज्य के साथ बाय-लैटरज ट्वॅस भी शुरू की हैं। आपको शायद पता होगा कि कुछ समय पहले मैं खुद उत्तरांचल में गया था और वहां हमने एक कांफ्रेंस का आयोजन भी किया था जिसमें हमने यह तय किया कि किस तरह से पूरे हाईड्रो पोटेंशियल को एक्सप्लायट किया जाए। इस प्रकार पूरी तरह से हमने उसका कार्यक्रम बना लिया है और मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि आगे आने वाले दिनों में हम इस कार्यक्रम को कार्यान्वित करने का एक बहुत बड़ा एक्शन प्लान भी इस देश के सामने रखेंगे। साथ ही हमारे सामने कुछ चुनौतियां भी हैं। जैसे आपने कहा है और यह बात बिल्कुल सही है कि नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न स्टेट्स में आतंकवाद एक बहुत बड़ी चुनौती के रूप में हमारे सामने खड़ा है, लेकिन यदि हम हाईड्रो पोटेंशियल को एक्सप्लायट करते हैं तो इससे एम्पलायमेंट भी जेनरेट होगा और इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर भी बनेगा। मुझे विश्वास है कि इसी आधार पर हम वहां पर आतंकवाद को कम करने में भी कामयाब होंगे, क्योंकि इसकी एक बुनियादी वजह से लोगों को नौकरी नहीं मिलती है और इसी वजह से लोग आतंकवाद की तरफ झुकते हैं। इसलिए मेरा पूरा विश्वास है कि सही मायने में

आतंकवाद को हटाने के लिए , खत्म करने के लिए लोगों के जो सोशल इकोनोमिक इश्यूज हैं उन पर भी देश को ध्यान देना होगा और हाईड्रो पोटैंशियल को एक्सप्लायट करना, यह मैं मानता हूं कि उन लोगों के साथ एक तरह से न्याय करने की ही बात होगी।

श्री राजनाथ सिंह ''सूर्य'': श्रीमन्, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जिस कार्य योजना का जिक्र किया है उसकी पुस्तिका हम सब लोगों को भी मिल चुकी है, उसको हमने देखा है और भगवान करे उस कार्य योजना पर काम भी हो। माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि जल संसाधन राज्यों के नियंत्रण में हैं और राज्यों के माध्यम से ही इस योजना को कार्यान्वियन करना पड़ता है। मुझे जहां तक ध्यान है टिहरी परियोजना केन्द्र ने बहुत पहले अपने हाथ में ली थी। उसकी लागत 196 करोड़ से बढ़ते-बढ़ते 6,000 करोड़ रुपये तक पहुंच गई है और अभी आगे कितनी जाएगी यह कहना बहुत मुश्किल है। परियोजना के कार्यान्वियन में जो विलंब हो रहा है उसका परिणाम यह है कि उसकी लागत भी बढ़ती जा रही है और उस पर काम भी नहीं हो रहा है। इसलिए विशेष रूप से टिहरी परियोजना के संदर्भ में माननीय मंत्री जी क्या करने जा रहे हैं, एक तो मैं यह जानकारी चाहता हूं और दूसरा हमारी जल विद्युत की कई परियोजनाएं अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय समझौतों में उलझी पड़ी हैं, धौली गंगा की है, घाघरा की है, राप्ती की है, गंडक की है, जो कि नेपाल से आनी वाली नदियां हैं, इन पर हमारी वार्ता 30-40 सालों से चल रही है लेकिन अभी तक कोई अंतिम परिणाम नहीं निकला है। अगर उन पर ठीक प्रकार से समझौता और कार्यान्वियन हो सके तो हमारा विद्युत उत्पादन अधिक हो सकता है और इससे हमारे देश की सभी प्रकार की समस्याओं का समाधान भी हो सकता है, तो उस संदर्भ में क्या प्रगति हो रही है क्या इससे माननीय मंत्री जी इस सदन को अवगत करायेंगे?

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: सर, पिछले सालों में जब हम ने जल-विद्युत प्रकल्पों को कार्यान्वित करने की कोशिश की, उस समय हम ने कुछ बुनियादी स्तर पर ध्यान नहीं दिया। जैसेकि मैंने शुरू में कहा कि जियॉलोजिकल सरप्राइसेस की वजह से काफी परियोजनाओं में विलंब हुआ है, उन का कॉस्ट ओवर-रन हुआ है और टाइम ओवर-रन भी हुआ है। इसलिए हम ने 8-9 महीने पहले एक नई नीति बनाई जिस के तहत थ्री स्टेज क्लिअरेंस देने के बाद ही प्रोजेक्ट को शुरू किया जाएगा। इस में जैसेकि मैंने कहा कि हम ने रेंकिंग स्टडी की है और उस के बाद प्रि-फीजिबिलिटी सर्वे के लिए सर्वे एंड इनवेस्टीगेशन किया जाएगा। सर, जब तक सर्वे एवं इनवेस्टीगेशन सही मायनों में नहीं किया जाएगा तो कांट्रेक्टर्स अपनी कॉस्ट बढ़ाते रहेंगे और देश को ज्यादा कम्पेनसेशन देना होगा। इसलिए हम ने तय किया कि सर्वे एंड इनवेस्टीगेशन के ऊपर भी काफी ध्यान देना चाहिए, काफी इनवेस्ट करना चाहिए ताकि जब टेंडर डॉक्युमेंट्स बनते हैं, उस में किसी को हुडविंक करने की क्षमता न रहे। इस तरह थ्री स्टेज क्लिअरेंस देने के बाद ही प्रोजेक्ट शुरू किया जाएगा, यह हम ने एक नई नीति बनाई है।

सर, टिहरी परियोजनाओं को पूरा करने के लिए अलग-अलग कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं। फिलहाल डैम की टनल को क्लोज करने की अनुमति केन्द्र सरकार ने राज्य सरकार को दे दी है। ...(व्यवधान)...चार में से दो हो गयी हैं। यह पूरी बन भी गयी है। सर, मैं कुछ समय पहले टिहरी डैम गया था और वहां के आउस्टीज के साथ मैंने चर्चा की है उन की समस्या को हल करने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार की तरफ से पूरी कोशिश की जा रही है।

डा० कुमकुम राय: धन्यवाद, सभापति, महोदय। यह सभी जानते हैं कि पन-बिजली परियोजनाएं न केवल सस्ती बिजली का माध्यम हैं बल्कि देश के चहुमुखी विकास की भी साधन हैं। इन परियोजनाओं से न केवल सूखे से राहत मिलती है बल्कि पेयजल की समस्या के साथ-साथ बाढ़ की विभीषिका को भी कम करने में बहुत सहूलियत मिलती है। कृषि उत्पादन बढ़ने से ग्रामीण लोगों की आय बढ़ती है, देश का औद्योगिक विकास तीव्र होता है और पर्यावरण का संतुलन भी बनता है। सभापति जी, इस के कई लाभ होने के बावजूद, देश में डेढ लाख मेगावाट विद्युत क्षमता होने पर हमारे यहां सिर्फ 16.6 परसेंट का ही दोहन हो पाता है। महोदय, आप ने अपने उत्तर में बताया है कि केंन्द्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकरण ने तकनीकी तथा गैर-तकनीकी पैरा-मीटरों के आधार पर देश के सभी रिवर बेसिनों के संभावित हाइड्रो स्थलों का आरंभिक रैंकिंग कर लिया है, मैं आप से पूछना चाहती हूं कि इस रैंकिंग का ब्यौरा क्या है और कितने स्थलों पर इस रैंकिंग के माध्यम से हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक परियोजना शुरू करने का विचार है? साथ ही क्या इस रैंकिंग में बिहार राज्य भी आता है और बिहार के कितने रिवर बेसिंग इस में आते हैं और उन की रैंकिंग के बारे में क्या रिपोर्ट दी गयी है? इसी के तहत एक और प्रश्न पूछना चाहूंगी कि क्या इन हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक परियोजनाओं के लिए निजी क्षेत्र को भी आमंत्रित किया गया है। अगर हां, तो कितने निजी क्षेत्र आमंत्रित हुए हैं?

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: सर, जैसे कि मैंने शुरू में कहा था कि रैंकिंग स्टडी करने की जरूरत है क्योंकि हम कहते हैं कि 1 लाख 50 हजार मेगावाट की पोटेंसियल है, लेकिन इसे एक्सप्लाइट करने के लिए यदि पर-यूनिट कॉस्ट 20-25 रुपए आएगी या हमें लाखों लोगों को डिस्पलेस करना होगा या माइलो-फॉरैस्ट को भी डि-फॉरैस्ट करना होगा जो शायद हाइड्रो पोटेंसियल तो एक्सप्लाइट हो जाएगा, लेकिन उस की सोशल कॉस्ट, इकॉनोमिक कॉस्ट और इकॉलोजिकल कॉस्ट इतनी ज्यादा होगी कि उसे एक्सप्लाइट करने का लाभ देश को नहीं मिलेगा। सभापति जी, हम ने रैंकिंग स्टडी इसलिए कराई है ताकि हमें पता चले कि कौन सी परियोजना पहले ली जा सकती है जिससे कि लिस्ट डिस्प्लेसमेंट हो। इस के लिए हम ने मार्क्स भी दिए थे। सर, जिस परियोजना को सब से ज्यादा मार्क्स मिले, वह "ए" क्लास में है, जिसे कम मार्क्स मिले हैं वह "बी" क्लास में है और जिसे कम-से-कम मार्क्स मिले वह "सी" क्लास में है। तो रैंकिंग स्टडी के आधार पर "ए" क्लास में जो परियोजनाएं हैं, उस को एक्सप्लाइट करने के लिए सब से पहले लिया जाएगा। सर,

वैसे भी आप देखेंगे कि 1 लाख 50 हजार मेगावाट क्षमता को पूरी तरह से एक्सप्लाइट करने के लिए 25-30 साल लगने वाले हैं। इसलिए कौन सी परियोजना की शुरुआत सब से पहले की जाय, इसे जानने के लिए हम ने ए,बी,सी एनालिसिस कर के परियोजनाओं को वर्गीकृत किया है। सर, आप को पता है देश में हमारे पास 6 रिवर सिस्टम्स हैं - ब्रह्मपुत्र रिवर सिस्टम, गंगा रिवर सिस्टम, इंदस रिवर सिस्टम, सेंट्रल रिवर सिस्टम, ईस्ट फ्लोइंग रिवर सिस्टम एंड वेस्ट फ्लोइंग रिवर सिस्टम। तो सभी रिवर सिस्टम्स को इसी आधार पर परियोजनाओं में डाला गया है जिस में बिहार की परियोजना भी है। सर, बिहार की अलग-अलग परियोजनाओं के बारे में जहां तक मुझे पता है,''ए'' क्लास में आने वाली जो परियोजना है उसमें कारो भी है, सांख भी है, ऐसी परियोजना जो 'ए' क्लास में हैं, लेकिन यदि वह 'बी' में भी होगी और बिहार सरकार यदि चाहेगी....(व्यवधान)....

डा॰ कुमकुम राय: यह तो झारखंड में चली गई है। कृपया बिहार का बताएं।

श्री सुरेश प्रभू: जी, कोयल कारो झारखंड में है। झारखंड सरकार के साथ मेरी चर्चा हुई है। मैं खुद दो महीने पहले रांची गया था, वहां के मुख्यमंत्री बाबूलाल मरांडी जी से मेरी चर्चा हुई थी और मैंने उन्हें कहा था कि यदि वह चाहते हैं कि जो बिजली वहां बनेगी, जिस दाम पर बनेगी उस दाम पर लेने के लिए वह तैयार है तो केन्द्र सरकार और राज्य सरकार मिलकर इस नतीजे पर पहुंच सकती है ताकि इस परियोजना का भी इस्तेमाल किया जा सके।

डा. कुमकुम राय: सर, आपने बिहार का नहीं बताया। बिहार रिवर बेसिन के बारे में क्या रिपोर्ट आई है? 'ए' या 'बी' किस केटेगरी में रखा गया है? बिहार की क्या संभावना है?

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: सर, मेरे पास काफी परियोजनाओं की सूची है। अगर आप बिहार के लिए जानकारी चाहते हैं तो केटेगरी 'ए' में दो परियोजनाएं हैं, केटेगरी 'बी' में दो हैं और केटेगरी 'सी' में एक है।

डा. कुमकुम राय: सर, मेरे 'बी' पार्ट का मुझे उत्तर नहीं मिला। निजी क्षेत्र के आमंत्रण के विषय में आपने नहीं बताया कि क्या इस परियोजना में निजी क्षेत्र को आमंत्रित करने का कोई सरकार का विचार है या विचार किया है? अगर विचार किया है, तो कितने निजी क्षेत्र को आमंत्रित किया है?

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: निजी क्षेत्र को आमंत्रित करने की नीति है, लेकिन आमंत्रित करने के लिए उनके वहां जाने की जरूरत नहीं है। वह इस नीति में आ सकते हैं। उनमें जो भी पार्टिसिपेट करना चाहते हैं, पार्टिसिपेट कर सकते हैं।

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, is one of the Chief Ministers who initiated power reforms in the country to improve the situation. However, for meeting the shortage of power, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to allocate 200 MW out of the unallocated share of the Central Generating Stations in the Southern Region. Part (a) of my supplementary is, what decision has been taken in this regard.

Part (b) of my supplementary is with regard to the surplus power of 1600 MW in the Eastern Grid. I would like to know whether the Government would allocate some power from this Grid to Andhra Pradesh.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: चेयरमैन, सर, इसमें यह प्रश्न संख्या 222 का तो आता नहीं है, 223 का आता है।

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, अब ले लिया है तो तीनों एक साथ हो जाएगा।

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had made a request to us. In view of the severe drought and less rainfall in Andhra Pradesh, he wanted more power for Andhra Pradesh. Sir, I am happy to say, through my letter dated 17th September, 2001, I have already allocated more power to Andhra Pradesh, immediately, acceding to the request of the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh. The entire deficit in power with regard to Andhra Pradesh was wiped out, because the Central Government allocated additional power from the unallocated quota of the Central Government. In addition to that, we have also earmarked some power that would be flowing from the Eastern Grid into the Southern Grid, for the State of Andhra Pradesh. I think, right now, Andhra Pradesh is not drawing the power which has been allocated to them; because, during last October and November, the State had received good rainfall; and, right now, there is no real shortage over there. If the hon. Member wants the details, I can give it to him. It shows that Andhra Pradesh is facing no difficulty in regard to power. The requirement of 3602 million units of power is right now available over there, but they are not able to draw as much as they need. We have already allocated them 1400 MW of power from the Central Generating Stations.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Sir, in the month of November, 2001, the hon. Minister of Power, at a function organised by the NHPC, assured to provide a single-window clearance for all rehabilitation plans and hydro electric projects. What has happened to that assurance? And, I would also like to know from the hon. Minister the number of projects awaiting clearance.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAU: Sir, I am not aware as to who had given this assurance. But, at the same time, I would say, it is not feasible to provide a single-window clearance. It is not possible. Because, as I explained a little earlier, water, as a resource, is owned by the State Government concerned. So, it is the State Government concerned which has a role to play. The Central Electricity Authority has also a role to play, because it has to give the techno-economic clearance. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has a big role to play, because it has to give clearance pertaining to environment and forest. The forest clearance is required to be given, under the Forest Protection Act, 1980. The environment protection is required to be given, under the Environment Protection Act. Therefore, there are separate laws to give clearance. There is also a requirement that we have to make sure that the rehabilitation of the oustees from a project should be taken care of properly. So, it is not feasible to give a single-window clearance for hydroelectric projects. However, it is necessary that we streamline the procedure whereby a system can be adopted and clearance can be given quickly. Therfore, I directed the Central Electricity Authority to come out with a system whereby permissions can be given, particularly, as far as the CEA is concerned, as quickly as possible. As far as other arms of the Government — either the Central or the State Governments—are concerned, I would say that they have to be taken on board.

We are also thinking of a system whereby a special purpose vehicle, a dedicated vehicle, could be created to take care of environment and social issues. We know that many a time, before we obtain environment clearance, everybody expresses his concern about environment, but once the permission is granted, we really ignore the environment issues. The same thing is happening with the resettlement and rehabilitation of the people, because, many a time, we have seen that a rehabilitation package, is worked out very well but, at the implementation stage, there are many flaws which are noticed. Therefore, if a dedicated vehicle can taken care of the environment and social issues, it will solve the problem. So, this is also under the active consideration of the Government of India.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: सभापति महोदय, हमारे यहां विद्युत उपलब्धता में जल बिजली का औसत प्रतिशत कम होता चला जा रहा है। बहुत दिनों पहले यह 30 प्रतिशत था, फिर बीच में 27 हुआ, फिर 26 हुआ, 25 हुआ और अब यह 24 प्रतिशत है और आज भी मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया, उसमें अधिकतर यही है कि सर्वेक्षण कराया जा रहा है और संभावनाओं का पता लगाया जा रहा है।

श्रीमन्, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि जिन परियोजनाओं पर काम हो रहा है और बहुत सी परियोजनाएं हैं जिनका जिक्र राजनाथ सिंह जी ने भी किया, उत्तरांचल में और कई ऐसी परियोजनाएं हैं जिन पर कई सालों से काम हो रहा है लेकिन उन पर काम या तो अधूरा पड़ा है या बंद कर दिया गया है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने भी अपने उत्तर में माना है कि 6.3 प्रतिशत परियोजनाएं विकास की विभिन्न स्थितियों में हैं। इनमें से ज्यादातर परियोजनाएं वही हैं जिन पर कई वर्षों से लगातार कार्य जारी है या बंद पड़ा है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि 6.3 प्रतिशत की जो आपने बात कही है कि विकास की विभिन्न अवस्थाओं में हैं, उनको कब तक पूरा कर लिया जाएगा और 2.73 प्रतिशत को जो केन्द्रीय प्राधिकरण ने स्वीकृति प्रदान की है, उस पर कब से काम शुरू हो जाएगा?

श्री सुरेश प्रभु: सभापति महोदय, जो परियोजनाएं अभी कार्यान्वित हो रही हैं लेकिन जिनमें अभी विलंब हो रहा है, ऐसी परियोजनाओं को पूरा करने के लिए हमने टास्क फोर्स बनाया है और उस पर काम हो रहा है। जहां ऐसा विलंब हो रहा है, वहां विलंब के कारण तय करने के लिए और एकाउंटेबिलिटी फिक्स करने के लिए हमने आदेश दे दिए हैं और हो सके तो उसके लिए जो भी लोग जिम्मेदार हों, उनके विरुद्ध कार्यवाही करने के आदेश भी हमने दे दिए हैं।

साथ ही आने वाले समय में जल्द से जल्द परियोजनाओं को कार्यान्वित किया जाए, इसके लिए सर्वेक्षण करने की जरूरत है। अगर वह सर्वेक्षण नहीं करते हैं तो इस तरह की समस्या खड़ी होती है क्योंकि बाद में वे कहते हैं कि हमें पता नहीं था, जिओलॉजीकल सरप्राईज़ेज आ गए, इसलिए डिले हो गया, इसलिए जब तक हम सही मायनों में ज्यादा से ज्यादा धन का निवेश नहीं करते, तब तक हमें ज्यादा लाभ नहीं होगा। यह बात सही है कि ऐसी कई परियोजनाएं हैं जो सालों से चल रही हैं, उनको पूरा करने के लिए हमने कार्यक्रम बनाया है और उसको जल्द से जल्द पूरा करने की जिम्मेदारी हमने ली है। इसमें कई परियोजनाएं ऐसी हैं जिन पर 5 साल से ज्यादा समय लग चुका है, हम उनको जल्द से जल्द पूरा करने की कोशिश करेंगे।

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Sir, my supplementary is pertaining to Question No. 221. I was a little surprised to note that even though there is very efficient Minister to advance the cause of power, the NHPC's capacity utilisation has been much less, compared to 1998-99. For example, in Bairasul, the capacity utilization in 1998-99 was 100, while in 1999-2000, it was only 57. I am thankful to the Minister for mentioning that the problem of insurgency and terrorism can be taken care of by taking care of the social and unemployment problems. In Loktak, which is in Manipur, there is no water scarcity. The Loktak is a lake. It is in Moirang. But, unfortunately, here also, the capacity utilization has gone down. In Salal, it has gone down. In Tanakpur, it has gone down.

In Chamera, it has gone down. In Uri it has gown down. It is almost half. In Rangit, the situation is not known because it has just started. Sir, the electricity generation has also gone down, as compared to 1998-99. In 1998-99, the electricity generation was 9917 million units, whereas in 1999-2000, it was only 8690 million units. The turnover has also gone down. Then, Sir, in the NHPC, the employment potential has also gone down. Compared to 1997-98, the employment potential has gone down. In 1997-98, the number of total employees was 12,184; whereas in 1999-2000, the number of employees went down to 12,150. The average emoluments have also gone down. So, it is quite evident that in the NHPC or in hydro-electric generation, the situation is not improving; rather it is deteriorating. I can also tell you about the investment, the capacity employed, the cost of production, the cost of sales, R&D expenses; every detail is with me. All these things have been taken from the reports of the public sector undertakings. So Sir, would the Minister be kind enough to respond to this situation?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, the power generation from a hydroelectric station depends on the availability of water. If the reservoir level goes down, obviously, it is going to affect the generation in hydroelectric station. Last year, as per the India Meteorological Department, the rainfall was 92 per cent of the normal average. In fact, the water-storage system, from which we actually generate power, was operating at the below average level. As a result of that, because of low rainfall, many of our hydroelectic generation targets have been affected very adversely. It has not happened in India only. For example, in Brazil, they generate more than 92 per cent of power from hydro resource. They had to resort to 30 per cent power cut because of less availability of water. So, the availability of water determines to what extent we can generate power from a hydro-electric power station. Therefore, the low utilization of capacity, as far as hydro-electric power stations are concerned, is attributable directly to the low rainfall and low reservoir level during the last year. Hopefully, the situation will improve. In fact, it has gone down in Andhra Pradesh. This was one of the reasons why Andhra Pradesh was facing such a problem. Andhra Pradesh did not receive enough rains. Even Karnataka did not receive enough rains. As a result of that, it had gone down there also. Therefore, this is the only criterion, that is, availability of water, on which the utilization will depend. Of course, it depends on demand also. But, in this case, it is not attributable to demand. It is directly attributable to low availability of water.

Sir, as far as employment is concerned, employment can be provided to the displaced people, to the project-affected people, as well as others, depending on the job potential that is there in a hydro-electric project. Sir, now, we want that the cost of power should be brought down as much as possible. Obviously, one of the ways to reduce the cost is to reduce the expenses that are associated with the generation of power. There is a high level of automation which is now taking place worldwide. You will be surprised to know that in Canada, for example, one of the biggest hydro-electric projects is operated by less than five people. This is the type of employment potential there. However, in Indian conditions we cannot follow that type of parameter. We must keep in mind the social angle. Therefore, we have to create employment. But to presume and to expect that the employment potential will go up in the same proportion as the hydro- electric potential is exploited, would, probably, not be fair to the consumers, who will have to pay the cost of creating employment in the generation sector, because they have to pay, through the tariff, the cost associated with this.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to put two supplementaries to question No. 221. I would like to compliment the hon. Minister for ranking the projects. I would like to know as to what exactly are the reasons, which, in fact, are responsible for the delay in the completion of hydro-electric projects for a considerable time. In spite of the fact that the latest technology is available; our engineers are also top-class, why does it take such a long time to complete the projects? Hydro-electric project is an ideal one for providing the peaking capacity. It is environment-friendly and it is also a non-renewable source of energy. Then, why is it that we are not trying to exploit the full potential that is available with us? It is a good thing that you made a ranking. How many projects are there in Category 'A'? I would like to know whether these projects can be completed within a stipulated time or not. Is there a possibility of international agencies being interested in the completion of these projects? What steps has the Government taken in this direction? My next question is: Has any study been carried out on the irrigation projects which are in operation now? It is also possible that by putting reversible-turbines, the peaking capacity can be increased. Has any study been carried out? If any study has been carried out, then, what exactly are the findings of these studies?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Firstly, as the hon. Member has pointed out, there has been a considerable delay in the implementation of several projects

in the past. In fact, to avoid recurrence of such a phenomenon in future, we took a number of steps, and I am very happy to say that some projects are under completion now. And, there is no time or cost overrun. In fact, there a saving of cost in those project. We have now introduced some things, like the three-tier system, the ranking-study, as well as fixing responsibility. We have also taken some steps, and I have already ordered that in regard to the tender documents, such legal and technical conditions should be prescribed that there is no possibility for the contractor to claim damages or claim higher cost, even if the project is under implementation or the project is already implemented. So, all these things, including making sure that the terms and condition prescribed in the tender documents itself, are being properly taken care of. And, we have engaged some eminent lawyers, technical persons, to draft that. So, a sort of model draft will be prepared, in order to see that nobody can hoodwink the system. That will be done. We have taken some other steps also, which I have already mentioned. I don't want to repeat it again. The ranking-study shows that under Category (A) there are projects of 15,650 megawatt potential; under Category (B) there are projects of 69,830 megawatt potential; and under Category (C) there are projects of 21,420 megawatt potential. These will be exploited, as I said, in a phased manner. Projects under Category (A) will be targeted first, and projects under Category (B) will be taken up after that.

Sir, as far as utilizing the potential under the irrigation projects is concerned, to use it to generate power; it is a very good idea. In fact, these should be exploited, because, if you want to reduce the cost of power, then, obviously, what we should do is, we should use the other potential available under the projects so that the cost of power can be reduced. The biggest hydro-development project that is going on in the world today is the Three-Gorges Project, where 18,200 megawatt of installed capacity will be created; it will be the single-largest projects anywhere in the world. It is going to be one of the wonders of the world. The emphasis of this project will be on flood-control. So, flood control is the major objective. Power generation is the secondary objective. As a result, the cost earmarked for hydro-development is less. Therefore, the cost of power will also be less. We have to work on such projects. I don't think we have carried out any study which you have mentioned. But we will definitely look into this.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: What about funding from the international financing agencies? Will the World Bank and others be able to provide huge amounts for

these projects? Has any inquiry been made about that? If the projects under Category (A) can be completed within a stipulated time, that will be a great thing.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, earlier, the stand taken by the World Bank was that they would not finance major hydro-electric projects because of the famous controversy—you must be aware of that—over big dams versus small dams. We took up this matter with the World Bank as well as with other multilateral agencies, saying that financing a hydro-electric project is in the interest of the developing countries. Therefore, we have already taken up this matter with them. Now, we have received some positive response in this regard, but the stand taken by the World Bank earlier was this.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a completely neglected area. In spite of the fact that there is a large potential for hydro-electric generation in India, so far, we have been able to harness only 16% of it. Mr. Chairman, Sir, in most of the developed countries, hydro electric generation has been given top priority over thermal or nuclear power generation, for two reasons. One, it is environment-friendly; secondly using the raw material, that is coal is a regular phenomenon in the case of thermal power, plants, but in the case of hydel projects, it is not so. Not only this; the water resources can be diverted for other purposes—as the hon. Minister just said, it can be used for irrigation purposes also. So, I would like to suggest that these projects should be clubbed together. Take, for example, Bihar. Half of the North and Central Bihar is under water for four months, every Year. Crores of rupees are lost every year. Why don't you tie up with Nepal and have a big hydel project there? Then, the estimated capacity is 38,000 megawatt. In the Ninth Plan, hydel projects of 16,291 megawatt potential had been identified. What has been done so far? Will the hon. Minister throw light on this? You have an organisation, namely, the NHPC. It is quite efficient, and is doing a good job. Why don't you give it a more free hand to take up more projects on a speedier basis? The projects get delayed for 8, 10 or 12 years, for want of clearance and, because of that, the cost of the project goes up every month. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the achievements made during the Ninth Plan, as, more or less, the Ninth Plan is coming to an end.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, to achieve the target set in the Tenth Plan, preparation is actually required to be made even before the commencement of the Plan. Therefore, as I said, we have already done this preparation. So, in the Tenth Plan, we would be able to attain the target set for hydro-power

development, but, still, I, myself, am not happy with the quantum of power we are going to generate in the Tenth Plan. If we go by the present speed, probably, it will take another 100 years for us to exploit the full potential. Therefore, we need to take a number of other measures to ensure that the process is hastened, and we are able to add much more to our capacity than what we are actually contemplating. So, the Tenth Plan target or the progress made in the Ninth Plan is certainly not praiseworthy. We really need to accelerate it; that is why all these steps, which have been mentioned earlier, have been taken. Sir, as far as Bihar is concerned, it is true—you have also mentioned—there is a need to introduce multipurpose projects, such as flood control, irrigation, drinking water, power generation, navigation—even navigation is possible. We have hardly used the navigation potential of our water resources available in the country. Possibly, we could have used it in significant way. Actually, we have not carried out a survey to integrate the entire potential. Then, we should think about the project. As far as the cost is concerned, I would say that the cost will be very high, because we load the entire cost on to the hydro- electric projects. But if we take a comprehensive view and try to apportion cost among different uses that are going to be made from the same project, I think, the cost will be less. We have to really do this. As far as Bihar is concerned, I fully agree with the fact that for six months, Bihar remains under flood; and, for the remaining six months, it waits for water to be given. So, we really need to come out with a proper policy. We have already discussed this aspect with the Ministry of Water Resources, and we will come out with an integrated policy for the State of Bihar.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, my question is: What has been your achievement so far with regard to the Ninth Five Year Plan; because, we will be completing the Ninth Plan just now.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: You give me notice, I will answer that separately.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister—this question has often been raised here—what steps he has taken to reduce the transmission losses and power thefts. Sir, we know that 30-40 per cent—and sometimes, even 50 per cent are the line losses, which are mostly due to thefts. There is no print in generating more power, if thefts are going to take place at such a high rate. My question is: In recent times, what steps have been taken to reduce these losses?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, in the course of the last 10 years, our emphasis has been entirely on generating new capacities. Since I was answering the questions relating to power generating capacities, I was only mentioning about that aspect only. Sir, in fact, the Ministry of Power, for the first time, in the course of the last one year, has shifted its thrust from generation to distribution. We have prepared a very comprehensive programme, wherein all the distribution circles in the coutry will be revamped during the course of the next four years. We have already started this work in 60 selected circles under the programme called 'Accelerated Power Development Programme'. But I am going to the Cabinet with a revised Cabinet note—the note is already ready—wherein we would seek a much higher outlay so that this amount will be utilised for revamping the distribution. Sir, since the last fifty years, our emphasis has always been on generation. So, we invested more on generation and less on transmission and distribution, whereas conventional wisdom demands that if we invest one rupee in generation, an equal amount has to be invested in transmission and distribution. But since we did not do that, the distribution system has not been revamped; and, in fact, there are higher and higher losses. But, Sir, the question: What steps are we taking? Sir, the first thing that we are doing is that, we are already metering all 11 KV and above feeders, which will be tamper-proof so that there will be accountability. Secondly, consumption of power all over India by household consumers, commercial consumers, agricultural consumers, everybody will be metered so that we will automatically come to know how much power each individual has consumed. In the second phase, in the distribution feeders, which is the primary source where the power is distributed to the ultimate consumer, we are trying to use software whereby whatever power is received by the distribution feeder and supplied to the consumer is properly measured so that we know exactly how much loss is taking place. Sir, the hon. Member had talked about the losses. He has said that line losses are to the extent of 30-40 per cent. Sir, in this connection, I would like to say that we have come out with a very transparent system of assessment of losses; and the losses have been found to be in excess of 50 per cent. So, we really do not know, as of today, as to what is the actual loss. And, Sir, the steps that we take to control these losses are also not in conformity or in relation to the challenge that is there. Therefore, Sir, this programme will actually meter as to how much power is received by the distribution feeder and how much power is supplied onwards. So, we will be able to do that. While we do this, the quality of power will be substantially improved. Today many of the transformers in India do not conform to good quality; they are not functioning properly; they are not properly

maintained. Therefore, this problem is not only associated with generation,but with transmission also because 30-40 per cent transformers are not working at a given point of time. Even if we generate enough power, people will still not get power. Therefore, we have launched this programme called ''Accelerated Power Development Programme'', under which we are doing all these things. But we want to expand this programme to cover the whole country in order to reduce the transmission and distribution losses to 15 per cent, to improve the quality of power, and to improve the availability of power. Sir, if we can save this transmission and distribution losses and theft, which amounts to about Rs. 20,000 crores, we will be able to pass on the benefit to the consumer; and because of it, even the tariff can come down substantially.

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: Sir, I join Shri Chavan in commending the hon. Minister of giving very detailed replies to a large number of questions, and also many assurances that he has given. But, Sir, there are a few factors which are extremely disturbing. The first one that I would like to mention is that there are some major States which have untapped resources. These States are Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Arunachal Pradesh, and these are economically and geographically disadvantaged areas. Naturally, they will claim money and resources for development. Secondly, as has also been pointed out, despite the numerous advantages, even from the viewpoint of energy, security, this is extremely important, because 75 per cent of the power generation in the country is based on thermal projests, which naturally are based on the fast depleting fossil fuels. Then we have to import oil etc. I will not go into it. Thirdly, I would like to mention that not only the direct generation of employment but also the indirect generation of employment will carry reforms to rural areas. The indirect generation of employment in particular will be much more important in opening up the rural areas and help Mr. Venkaiah Naidu.

The next disturbing factor, which I would like to mention is that while there is a declining trend as regards the share of hydro-power in the generation of power in the country -- currently it has come down to as low as 25 per cent from 50 per cent during 1962-63,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly put you question. It is not a debate.

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: Sir, many hon. Members have highlighted the importance of it. Anyhow, I will come straight to the question. Sir, the hon. Minister talked about financing and losses and so on. I would like to know

what kind of plans do we have to expand the base of the Power Transmission Corporation. It has a very limited base in comparison to its potential. Its power base at the moment is Rs. 6,000 crores. I would like to know if the Government has any intention to expand its power base.

Now, I put part (b) of my question. According to the Central Electricity Authority estimates and those of the Power Ministry, we require Rs.2,50,000 crores for generation of 50,000 megawatt of power during the five-year period and almost an equal amount for evacuation, transmission etc. I would like to know what arrangements have been made in consonance with the ranking both detailed and preliminary that the Ministry has done as regard their financing structure.

Part (c) of my question is the following. We understand the DPRs are not ready even for the first ranking power projects that have been mentioned. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister ...*(Interruptions)* I am not giving information; I am seeking information, Mr. Parmar. It will be good for Gujarat also. The Chair will take care of that. Sir, all I what to know is whether detailed project reports have been made for all the identified projects by the CEA.

I would also like to know whether he would like to agree to have half-an-hour discussion only on hydro-power.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, as far as the first point is concerned, the capitalisation of the Power Trading Corporation is under consideration of the Government. There is a Group of Ministers which is looking into the issue.

As far as the second part of the question about preparation of the detailed project reports is concerned, as I have said earlier, there is a three-stage clearance for their preparations. Now, we have added one more stage. We have already had a preliminary ranking study; there will be a preliminary survey and investigation. Then only the project reports will be prepared. Otherwise we will again be exposing ourselves to the possibility of cost and time over-runs, becasue we are dealing only with surprise elements and not with reality. This is the approach we have adopted. Therefore, wherever ranking studies have been made, the next step will be survey and investigations and then the projects will be prepared. Thirdly, regarding the availibility of resources, it is a very major challenge before the power sector. The amount that we will be requiring will be almost Rs. 8,00,000 crores, during the course of the next two Five-Year Plans. That money can become available within the system if we bring about a

systemic change. If the sector is losing money, then it is not possible for it to get the money from the banking system or even from a private entrepreneur or even use the public money for that purpose. It will be very difficult. Therefore, one of the purposes of introducing the power sector reform programme is to ensure that the bankability of this sector is restored. But in the short-term we have to see how the resources can be raised. For this purpose, under the Chairmanship of the former Chairman of the Power Finance Corporation, Mr. Udesh Kohli, a committee has been constituted and they are looking into the aspect as to how the resources can be raised, including tapping of the debt market and the secondary debt market, not just for the equity, but even for the debt component.

MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Mr. Chairman, Sir the power generation potential in the Jammu and Kashmir State is estimated at 20,000-25,000 MW But, in the last 55 years, only 1,000 MW of pwoer has been generated. Indeed it is a pity. My State of Jammu and Kashmir is terrorist- ridden, incomeless and resourceless. In fact, it purchases power worth Rs. 1,100 crores every year. I would like to put only one question to the hon. Minister : How many projects have been submitted by the State Government to the Central Government for approval? Of this, how many projects have been cleared under the single window clearance system for Jammu and Kashmir State?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I said earlier, there is no single window clearance system which is operational. The State of Jammu and Kashmir had entered into a MoU with the Government of India about two or three years ago , requesting the Central Government to implement some of the projects which are already there with the State Government, because the State Government found it not feasible to implement these projects, considering their own resources. So, all these projects which the State Government had handed over to the Central Government are under various stages of examination. Ultimately, some projects were found viable. In the case of one project, the cost of power generation would be more than Rs. 12 or Rs. 13 per unit. Now, who is going to purchase the power generated at this cost from such a unit? Even if the State Government had asked the Central Government to implement the project, the viability of that project has to be examined. Since we do not have a system to enter into a MoU, I have already asked the Ministry to come out with a new system so that, in future, whenever a new project is taken up by the State Government with the Central Government, proper norms have to be fixed. Otherwise, we will be having a situation wherein the State Government and

the Central Government may enter into a MoU, but some of the projects may not become operational because no spade work or preparatory work was done in the past.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Poyyamkutty hydropower project submitted by the Government of Kerala to the Central Government is pending approval for years now. I request the Ministry to show some consideration for the poor people of Kerala. The generation of power from all other sources is very expensive. But generation of power from this source is cheaper in Kerala. I request the Minister to give clearance to this project, as soon as possible.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: The power project which the hon. Member has referred to is not pending with my Ministry, but with the Ministry of Environment and Forests. This power project has to be implemented by the State Government. This project is pending with the Ministry of Environment and Forests for their clearance. The Chief Minister of Kerala, Mr. Antony, met me only a few days back and discussed with me about this project. We have taken up this matter with the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Mr. Baalu, the Minister of Environment and Forests, had promised to give clearance to this project.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: I agree with you that the clearance has to come from the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a tremendous potential for hydro-electric development in Nepal. Our negotiations with Nepal on Pancheshwar and Mahakali rivers are going on and on for years and years, but without any outcome. Sir, from many points of view, from the point of view of India's welfare and Nepal's stability and welfare, it is essential that these projects should be brought to some kind of a conclusion. Would the Minister be kind enough to tell the House as to what stage the negotiation with Nepal has reached on these major projects and by when, he thinks, these projects will begin?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, it is our policy to encourage setting up of power projects outside the country, from where power will be brought totally by India for its own consumption. A similar project is already under implementation in Bhutan, the Tala project, in which the entire power will be bought by the Central Government and distributed within the country. We are examining similar projects with Nepal. Also, there was a proposal to examine such projects with Myanmar and others. It is our policy to undertake such

projects. The Ministry of External Affairs is also in the process of talking to the Government of Nepal. At the diplomatic level, at the technical level, at the commercial level, we are already looking into it. I will try to.....(*Interruption*).

DR. KARAN SINGH: Many years back, there was an agreement on these two projects, the Pancheshwar and Mahakali projects. They are not new projects. Why are they not being implemented?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: This has been going on for a long time. We have not come to the stage of implementation. Even the agreement has not yet been signed. Implementation will come much later.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The agreement on the Mahakali project was signed by me in January 1996 and, thereafter, it has been ratified by two Prime Ministers. It was signed thrice earlier and later again were signed in 1996 by the Indian Prime Minister and the Nepalese Prime Minister.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Sir, as I said, to operationalise something which has been agreed upon, to take it to a level where it can now be implemented, we are already in the process of doing it. I assure the House that I will personally look into it and I will try to expedite it as fast as possible.

SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR: The hon. Minister has referred to the example of Brazil which had to resort to a 30 per cent power cut due to the shortage of rainfall of only seven inches. The United Nations report has suggested that in 2025, there will be riots over water, meaning thereby that the rainfall will be substantially less and, therefore ground water will also be substantially less. Has the Ministry taken into consideration, while developing power projects, this possibility of extreme and acute loss of rainfall?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Yes, Sir. That is why the ranking study, survey and preliminary survey and investigation, are necessary. You are absolutely right in saying that water availability is ultimately going to determine the success of hydro-electric projects. If there is no water available, there cannot be a water development project. There is no technology in the world which has been developed whereby water can be manufactured in a factory. We can only bottle water, but not manufacture it. So, we have to definitely rely on ecological sources. Therefore, any hydro-electric project must take into consideration the ecological angle. Hence, this survey and investigation that is talked about, takes into consideration that aspect, a great deal.

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my supplementary question relates to Question No. 221. In reply to parts (c) and (d) of Question

No. 221, it is stated, in paragraph 3, of the answer, that they have identified 22,364 MW and 16,291 MW for the XI and the X Plans, respectively. What is the percentage of achievement in the IX Plan? What is the expected percentage of achievement in the X Plan? I also wish to bring to the hon. Minister's notice a dam in Kanyakumari, which is named Pechiparai Dam. The dam was constructed during the period of the Britishers 125 years back. After that, 30 years back, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board planned for generation of power there. They have constructed an upper dam to be utilised for power generation and water would be released to the lower dam for irrigation purposes. Such projects for irrigation may be examined. Will the Government come forward to do that?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Yes, Sir. It is our policy to encourage State Governments to undertake such projects. If the State Government requires any assistance from the Centre, we will examine it.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Sir, my supplementary relates to Question No. 221. In reply to part (c) and (d) of Question No. 221, the hon. Minister has stated that in order to accelerate the process of survey and investigation of the new hydro-electric sites and to create a shelf of feasible projects which could be taken up for execution, the CEA has brought out a Report on Preliminary Ranking Study of about 400 hydro schemes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what the schemes are which have been identified and whether any preliminary ranking study has been conducted in Karnataka, which is a pioneer State in this field and has a lot of potential.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Distribution of wasteland and bhoodanland

*224. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government wasteland and Bhoodanland distributed during last three years, State-wise;

(b) the wasteland and bhoodanland still available with Government for distribution, State-wise; and